



Arizona Department of Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

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Arizona Department of Education Announces 2011 Charter School Incentive Program Grant Recipients

Start-up Grant for New Charter Schools Will Expand Public School Options

Phoenix, AZ, April 1, 2011— Today, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) announced the 2011 recipients of the Arizona Charter School Incentive Program (AZCSIP) start-up grants. Each school will receive a \$230,000 grant per year for the next three years to support the startup expenditures of opening a charter school. At the same time, considerable funding will go toward building leadership and staff capacity, with the goal of creating school-wide cultures of learning.

“Arizona’s strong culture of providing many educational options for our students is one of the great strengths we have as a state to drive educational improvements,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal. “I would like to congratulate these charter schools and look forward to working with them to help create schools of excellence that will benefit many students in their communities for years to come.”

In August of 2009, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Innovation and Improvement awarded one of five charter school grants to ADE to increase public school options in Arizona. ADE created the AZCSIP program to administer the grant.

The three main purposes of the AZCSIP: (1) to increase the number of high quality charter schools in Arizona, particularly those serving students most at risk in rural and urban settings; (2) to improve student achievement so that it meets high academic standards in schools; and (3) to improve high school student achievement and graduation rates.

“ADE received 21 applications that were reviewed by a five person panel consisting of a federal program director, three charter school operators and a university educator,” said AZCSIP Program Administrator Mark Francis. “Each of the winning schools outlined a variety of data-driven strategies to improve pupil achievement. They also each had a plan to continuously monitor student progress and in-house programs in an effort to better align school staff with enhanced outcomes.”

“Improving student achievement is the statutory mandate of Arizona’s charter schools,” explained Eileen Sigmund, President/CEO of the Arizona Charter School Association. “The selection of recipients for the

Charter School Improvement Grant demonstrates excellence was rewarded and recognized and will meet parent demand for high quality educational options.”

The 2011 AZCSIP grant Awardees:

- Academy of Mathematics and Science South, Inc. (Tucson)
- Ball Charter School Eastside, Inc. (Phoenix)
- BASIS Chandler (Chandler)
- BASIS Flagstaff (Flagstaff)
- BASIS Peoria (Peoria)
- Carpe Diem (Yuma)
- Archway Classical Academy (Phoenix)
- Arête Preparatory Academy (Phoenix)
- Litchfield Park Preparatory Academy (Phoenix)
- Maryvale Preparatory Academy (Phoenix)
- Institute for Transformational Education, Inc. (Tucson)

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